



**Legislative  
Accomplishments  
in 2009**

**Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 2009**

On June 10, 2009, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 2009, Fiscal 2010 and 2011. The Foreign Relations Authorization Act authorizes appropriations for the Department of State for the administration of foreign affairs. I am pleased to report that several of my bills and provisions were included into the base line text of the bill.

**H.R. 909 – Public Diplomacy Resources Center Act of 2009**

- The bill has been included in the base line text of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2010-2011 (H.R. 2410, Section 214, on Page 26).
- Section 214, Public Diplomacy Resources Center amends the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to direct the Secretary of State to ensure that diplomatic and consular mission libraries and resource centers are open to the general public to the greatest extent practicable to schedule public showings of American films that showcase American culture, society, values, and history.

**H.R. 1976 – International Documentary Exchange Act of 2009**

- The bill has been included in the base line text of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2010-2011 (H.R. 2410, Section 215, on Page 28).
- Section 215, Grants for International Documentary Exchange Programs authorizes the Secretary of State to make grants to U.S. nongovernmental organizations that use independently produced documentary films to promote a better understanding of the

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*A Message from Your Representative*

CONGRESSWOMAN DIANE E. WATSON



Dear Friend,

I am pleased to report to you on U.S. House of Representatives activities that will affect not only the 33rd District of California but the country as a whole.

This year we have seen monumental changes take place across America. These changes will impact every aspect of our lives and subsequently, the lives of future generations. As your representative, I am working hard each day to provide federal resources and programs to enhance your quality of life and to ensure that you, my constituents, continue to have a significant voice in Congress.

In the 111th Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives is addressing key issues of concern to the 33rd District region and the nation—healthcare reform, promoting economic recovery, increasing job opportunities, restructuring home loans, and providing resources for American citizens to participate in the changes we want to see in our nation. We are committed to keeping you informed while addressing your needs and concerns.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and please feel free to respond to us on any issue of concern.

*Diane E. Watson*

Diane E. Watson  
Member of Congress (CA-33)



**Working Into Recovery Resource Fair Hosted by Rep. Diane Watson**

Rep. Watson hosted the Working into Recovery Resource Fair in April 2009 at FAME Renaissance Center in efforts to provide over 400 constituents with direct resources and information on where to go, who to talk to, and learn what their next steps should be toward recovering from the current economic downturn.



It is no surprise that constituents in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, along with the rest of this great nation, have been affected by the current economic crisis in one way or another. As a result, constituents are in dire need of immediate assistance from all levels of government (Federal, State, County, and City), as well as the greater Los Angeles community, to assist them in any way possible.

Following Rep. Watson's comprehensive report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Resource Fair focused on five key issue areas; employment/adult programs, healthcare/childcare services, housing, immediate assistance, and legal assistance. From steps on applying for food stamps to receiving leads in locating a job, the event provided resources from over twenty government agencies and community organizations.

The event also had a panel of significant speakers, including California State Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Jim B. Clarke, Director of Federal Relations for Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Zeeda Daniele, Senior Business Manager for Fannie Mae, and William Flanagan, Attorney at Law for the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. All focused on the importance of all levels of government and communities to continue working together to help those in need.

An exclusive portion of the Resource Fair included providing examinations to over forty individuals interested in employment opportunities with the 2010 United States Census. This ninety-minute exam was offered to individuals interested in becoming a U.S. Census employee. Rep. Watson urged individuals to take this unique and rare opportunity which current U.S. Census Regional Centers do not provide on a regular basis.

The efforts to assist constituents in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District who are "working into recovery" does not end here. Rep. Watson plans to host a series of meetings in her Los Angeles District Office with constituents and community organizations to effectively resolve individual issues, one obstacle at a time.

These meetings will be conducted based upon specific issue areas, one issue area at a time. Organizations who have participated at the Resource Fair will attend once again to provide follow-up opportunities for further individual assistance. In addition, organizations that were not present at the Resource Fair will be invited to attend.

The first follow-up meeting is dealing with Veterans' concerns. Contact the District Office to get information on the schedule. ■

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**Legislative Accomplishments in 2009**  
(cont.)

United States abroad and a better understanding of global perspectives of other countries in the United States.

**H.R. 2131 – To amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy**

- The bill has been included in the base line text of the State Department Authorization Bill (H.R. 2410, Section 216, on Page 30).
- Section 216, the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy amends the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy through October 1, 2011.

**Section 330 - Department of State Employment Composition**

- This section has been included in the base line text of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2010-2011 (H.R. 2410, Section 330, on Page 121-124).
- Section 330, Department of State Employment Composition amends the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 2003 to direct the Secretary of State to report on efforts to develop a uniform definition of diversity that is congruent with core values and vision of the Department, and to evaluate the diversity plans specifically relating to the Foreign Service and Senior Foreign Service. This section also provides for a GAO Review by the Comptroller General of the United States to assess the employment composition, recruitment, advancement, and retention policies of the State Department for women and minority groups. ■



**Watson To Re-Introduce The Compassionate Access Act**

Congresswoman Diane E. Watson and U.S. Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) will re-introduce the Compassionate Access Act, previously labeled the ACCESS Act, in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The Compassionate Access Act is in response to the antiquated and slow-moving FDA approval process that is not acceptable to the thousands Americans who die while they wait for promising new medical treatments and devices.

The legislation seeks to increase terminally ill patients' access to promising new treatments and devices that are in the investigational phase of the Food and Drug Administration approval process.

The Compassionate Access Act creates a conditional approval system that provides terminally-ill patients speedy access to promising new drugs and devices as early as the completed Phase I trials for a new product. It also improves upon the existing accelerated approval process for promising new products by allowing the compassionate use of drugs not yet approved by the FDA that have demonstrated in Phase II trials to give clinical benefits to seriously ill patients. The Act has built-in safeguards that allow for the continued monitoring of the efficacy of developmental drugs as they are used by terminally ill patients.

With this legislation, Congresswoman Watson hopes to give the FDA the tools with which to compassionately consider the needs of the patient while they evaluate the risks of new medical products. ■

**Congresswoman Watson Named Subcommittee Chairwoman**

At the start of the new Congress, I assumed the Chair of the Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement. The subcommittee has broad oversight and legislative jurisdiction that encompasses financial and managerial operations of executive branch agencies.

To date, the subcommittee has held eight separate hearings, from March through September 2009. Examples of issues examined by the subcommittee include federal and private sector cybersecurity preparedness, government acquisition programs, the use of federal dollars for international development purposes, and the ineffective management of programs at the Department of Homeland Security.

In the coming months, I plan to hold hearings on federal efforts to enforce and protect the intellectual property rights of domestic manufacturers and content providers from international piracy and counterfeiting activities. Further, my subcommittee will examine the government's implementation of green policies and planning strategies for utilizing and disposing of its information technology



*Chairwoman Diane Watson gavels open recent Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement hearing.*

products and assets. Lastly, the Subcommittee plans to address the use of contractors in the administration and implementation of domestic and international programs that are deemed critical and inherently governmental functions, and how agencies are addressing human capital shortages in the coming years.

As we look to next year, the Subcommittee plans to develop new federal agency cybersecurity requirements and government standards for securing its cyber and communications critical infrastructure assets, as well as proposals to strengthen the oversight process for major agency acquisitions and contracting efforts. ■



*Congresswoman Watson and fellow panelists discuss strategic partnerships.*

**Watson Highlights Positive Strategic Partnerships with Republic of Korea**

As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I have led a significant effort to maintain a positive long-term strategic partnership with the Republic of Korea (ROK). On May 7, 2009, a symposium was held to discuss the possibility of a future Free-Trade Agreement between the United States and the ROK. The goal is to establish an annual event as an annual event where the Co-Chairs can discuss important issues currently facing Congress and the ROK.

The Congressional Caucus on Korea met at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea on Wednesday, July 29, 2009 in the Gold Room (Rayburn Building, Room 2168). The event commemorated the 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and celebrated the longstanding U.S.-ROK alliance partnership. ■



**Watson Votes "Yes" to Reform Nation's Health Insurance System**

On November 7, 2009, Rep. Watson and House Democrats passed an historic bill that reforms our nation's health insurance system, brings down the deficit and expands access to affordable, quality health care to nearly every American. The Affordable Health Care for America Act offers security and stability to all Americans, reduces costs, improves coverage and preserves our choice of doctors, hospitals and health plans.

"Today, one chamber of Congress has passed meaningful health insurance reform after a century of trying," said Rep. Watson. "After nearly 100 hours of committee hearings, 3,000 town halls and events nationwide, and 239 considered amendments, we have passed a bill that is critical to securing the future economic prosperity of our country and the American middle class," said Rep. Watson.

Reforming health care is a crucial part of our economic recovery. Our bill cuts long-term health care costs and reduces the deficit by \$109 billion over the first ten years, and continues to reduce the deficit to help grow our economy and put it back on sound footing.

The legislation passed today will cover 96% of Americans and guarantees stability, lower costs, higher quality, and a greater choice of plans for all Americans. It puts you and your doctor – not the insurance companies – in charge of your health care decisions. Upon enactment, Americans can expect the following:

If you have insurance, this bill:

- Keeps your insurance company from denying you care or coverage – or charging you more – because of diabetes, heart disease or any other "pre-existing condition."
- Gives you peace of mind that you won't lose coverage if you lose your job, move, or change jobs.
- Prevents insurance companies from dropping you because you get "too sick."
- Covers preventive care with no co-pays or deductibles.
- Limits out-of-pocket expenses your insurance company can make you pay.

If you don't have insurance, this bill:

- Lets you comparison shop for a quality, affordable health plan through a new health insurance exchange or marketplace.
- Offers you low group rates even for individual coverage.
- Helps lower your premiums with affordability credits for those who need help paying.
- Prevents any insurance company from denying you coverage for heart disease, diabetes or another "pre-existing condition."
- Extends coverage for young Americans, allowing them to stay on their parents' health insurance plans up to their 27th birthday if they choose.
- Includes a public health insurance option to compete on a level playing field with private insurers.

For our seniors, this bill:

- Strengthens Medicare, extending its solvency for years to come.
- Improves access to your doctor.
- Lowers Medicare drug prices by beginning to close the coverage gap or "donut hole" immediately.

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Visit us on the web at <http://www.house.gov/watson>



*Rep. Watson congratulates 2009 Congressional Art Competition Winner Jenny Cho.*

**2009 Congressional Art Contest**

Rep. Watson recently attended the award presentation in Washington, D.C. honoring the District's winner of the annual Congressional Art Competition. Jenny Cho, a student at Los Angeles High School won this year's competition with her artwork done in pencil entitled "Human and Nature." The composition will hang in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

Since the competition began in 1982, there have been over 675,000 participants. Rep. Watson thanks all the students who entered this year's competition, as well as their teachers and school administrators. She strongly encourages all high school students in the 33rd Congressional District to participate in this annual artistic competition.

Congratulations Jenny! ■



- Reduces inefficiencies and program costs to help Medicare remain solvent without cutting benefits.
- Improves coordination and increases the quality of care for seniors with diabetes, high blood pressure, and other chronic conditions.

"Right now, more than half of all Americans delay care or skip doses of their prescription drugs because of rising costs, and our small businesses often must choose between benefits and layoffs," said Rep. Watson. "Today, I cast my vote not only to rein in out-of-control costs, but to literally offer a lifeline to Californians who struggle every day with insurance company decisions that deny them care or coverage or price a test or cure out of reach. This is the most important vote I have ever cast, and I will work to send the strongest bill possible to the President."

In the 33rd Congressional District of California, the Affordable Health Care for America Act will:

- Improve employer-based coverage for 304,000 residents.
- Provide credits for up to 173,000 households to help pay for coverage.
- Improve Medicare for 75,000 beneficiaries, including closing the prescription drug "donut hole" for 6,100 seniors.
- Allow 16,300 small businesses to obtain affordable health care coverage and provide tax credits to help reduce health insurance costs for up to 15,100 small businesses.
- Provide coverage for 138,000 uninsured residents.
- Protect up to 1,100 families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs.
- Reduce the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and health care providers by \$29 million. ■

### ***Watson Submits Transportation Projects for Los Angeles and Culver City***

SAFETEA-LU— Safe Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users is authorized every six years to enhance transportation infrastructures around the nation. Here is a list of projects I have requested to support the infrastructure of the 33<sup>rd</sup> District.

#### **California Department of Transportation – METRANS Project**

Project Description: The METRANS Transportation center conducts education, training, research, technology transfer, and information dissemination at the University of Southern California and California State University, Long Beach. Its mission is to solve transportation problems in large metropolitan areas to improve mobility, sustainability, and regional economic health. It specializes in freight and international trade, public transit, urban mobility, and infrastructure.

Project Request: \$21,000,000

#### **California Science Center – South Los Angeles / Exposition Park Intermodal Urban Access Project**

Project Description: Phase II of the project: Museum Walk consists of pedestrian promenades connecting Figueroa Street on the east, Vermont Avenue on the west, Phase I of the Intermodal Urban Access Project on the South to the California Science Center, Natural History Museum Los Angeles County, California African American Museum and Rose Garden to the Expo rail station at Vermont and USC/EXPO Park.

Project Request: \$12,000,000



### ***Junia McKenzie Selected As Congressional Page***

Rep. Diane E. Watson selected Mr. Junia McKenzie to be a member of the Congressional Page Program which serves the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. Unlike prior semesters, Mr. McKenzie is spending his fall semester on Capitol Hill as a high school junior studying Math, English, & Science.

Congresswoman Watson chose Mr. McKenzie based on his 4.0 G.P.A. at King Drew Magnet High School, his community involvement, and his aspirations for the future.

As a Congressional Page, Mr. McKenzie is carrying on a tradition of young stewardship.

"On a rotating basis members of the U.S. House of Representative take part in the Congressional Page Program where we select the most outstanding students. I have great pride in selecting Junia McKenzie because he exemplifies the best and brightest here in the city of Los Angeles," said Rep. Watson.

Each year rising juniors are referred by a congressional representative and approved by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. The Page program is a highly competitive program. As part of the House staff, Congressional Pages work on the House floor and are assigned to deliver correspondence, legislative materials, and small packages within the congressional complex.

During their stay in Washington, Congressional Pages reside in the House Page Residence on Capitol Hill. ■



**City of Culver City – East Washington Boulevard Median Configuration and Enhancement Project**

Project Description: Plan, design and construct a rehabilitation of Washington Boulevard between National Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue, to improve roadway pavement, redesign medians to provide left-turn pockets and provide additional roadway width to add bikeway facilities.  
Project Request: \$2,000,000

**City of Culver City – Real-Time Bus Arrival Information System**

Project Description: Design, develop, and install a real-time bus arrival information system that utilizes the intelligent transportation system (ITS) technology to communicate the real-time "next bus" information to transit riders through display signs at bus stops and transit centers and through other means of communication (such as web site and text messaging).  
Project Request: \$3,200,000

**City of Culver City – Bus Replacement Project**

Project Description: Culver City Municipal Bus Lines is asking for federal assistance to buy twenty-six (26) bus replacements for the Compressed Natural Gas bus fleet that will have reached the end of their useful lives over the next six years.  
Project Request: \$9,360,000

**City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation – Chesterfield-DASH Purchase Project**

Project Description: Funding is requested to replace 6 clean-fuel Community DASH buses that operate within the 33rd Congressional District on the Chesterfield Square route.  
Project Request: \$1,920,000

**City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation – Wilshire Center-DASH Purchase Project**

Project Description: Funding is requested to replace 4 clean-fuel Community DASH buses that operate within the 33rd Congressional District on the Wilshire Center/Koreatown route.  
Project Request: \$1,280,000

**City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation – Crenshaw-DASH Purchase Project**

Project Description: Funding is requested to replace 3 clean fuel Community DASH buses that operate within the 33rd Congressional District on the Crenshaw route.  
Project Request: \$960,000

**City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation – Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Bus Stop & Median Island Improvements Project**

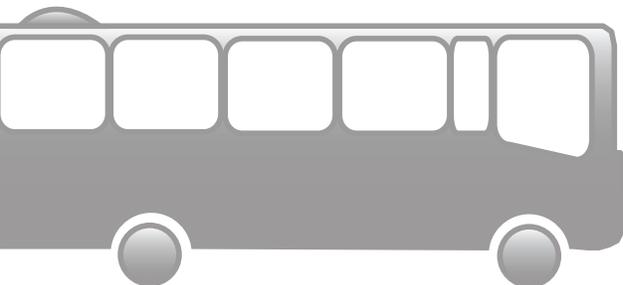
Project Description: Funding is requested to install median islands on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard between the Harbor Freeway and Vermont Avenue. The funding would also provide for new bus shelters, security lighting and sidewalk improvements.  
Project Request: \$1,200,000

**City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation – Exposition Light Rail Line Stations Streetscape-West Project**

Project Description: This project consists of pedestrian improvements and transit enhancement which includes but is not limited to street trees with decorative tree wells, decorative sidewalks, pedestrian lights, stamped crosswalks, bicycle racks, trash receptacles, and upgraded access ramps. The improvements will be focused within ¼ miles of each of three Metro stations – Crenshaw Boulevard, La Brea Avenue, and La Cienega Boulevard / Fairfax Avenue Stations.  
Project Request: \$2,400,000

**Congresswoman Watson  
Introduces Bill to Encourage  
Film and Television  
Productions to Invest in Our  
Community and to Decrease  
Runaway Production**

On Monday October 26, 2009 Congresswoman Watson introduced H.R. 3931 to extend expensing provisions for film and television productions which allow them to treat certain costs as a deductible expense when filmed in the United States. These tax credits were extended in October 2008 as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, but are set to expire on December 31, 2009. If the provisions are allowed to expire film and television productions will likely choose to film in cheaper locations abroad, resulting in a major loss of revenue and jobs for the 33rd District, the state of California, and the country. According to the Department of Commerce the outsourcing trend this legislation seeks to prevent "has affected thousands of workers in industries ranging from computer graphics to construction workers and caterers." Moreover, under these provisions qualified productions are encouraged to film in low-income and distressed areas bringing jobs and economic opportunities to communities which sorely need them. ■





**Los Angeles Community College District – Transit Access Pass Project**

Project Description: The proposed 2-year Transit Access Pass demonstration project will transform the current TAP program into a regional student TAP program where municipal operators and Metro service are included. This demonstration program can be shared with other colleges and universities in Southern California.

Project Request: \$2,214,000 ■

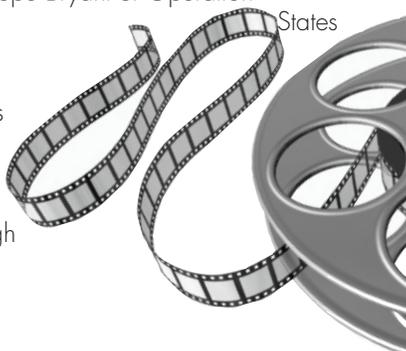
**Public Diplomacy Resource Centers Act of 2009: Rep. Watson Donates Johnny Grant Film Collection to Rosa Parks Library in Soweto**

Rep. Diane E. Watson donated over 100 films to the Rosa Parks Library and Information Center in Soweto, South Africa. The film donation took place in Soweto in May 2009. The Congressional Delegation led by Rep. Watson was joined by Congressman Donald Payne, Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health in the U.S. Congress. The donation is the inaugural donation under legislation introduced by Rep. Watson called the Public Diplomacy Resource Centers Act of 2009. This legislation passed under the State Department Authorization Act of 2009.

The presentation in Soweto included a three-minute video presentation by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton who endorsed the library donation project as a means to use the art of film to foster cultural exchange between America and South Africa.

Special guests included Congressman Donald Payne, John Hope Bryant of Operation Hope and Helen LaLime, Chargé d'Affaires and the United States representative in South Africa.

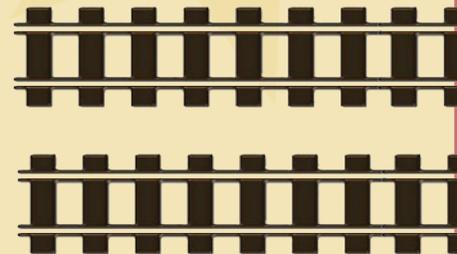
The Rosa Parks Library and Information Center in Soweto was founded in 1976. During the 1970's and 1980's the library served as an important source of information and exchange for many young activists. The library offers screenings, books, magazine and extra lessons in English for selected high school students. ■



**Watson Encourages MTA to Seek Increased Funding for Major Rail Projects**

Rep. Watson joined 13 members of Southern California's bi-partisan Congressional delegation in sending a letter to MTA's board of directors seeking federal funding for a broad array of local transportation projects. The letter highlighted that three of the major rail projects listed are in development or under consideration in her district.

She noted that the Expo Line, the Crenshaw/South Bay Transit Corridor and the Subway to the Sea are vital to the development of the neglected minority communities in South Los Angeles. ■





### **Advocating for Transparency in the Use of Taxpayers' Money**

On March 20, 2009 Congresswoman Watson sent a letter to the Interim Assistant Secretary for Financial Stability at the Treasury Department Mr. Neel Kashkari to ensure the optimum level of coordination is maintained between Congressional and Treasury Department oversight of the use of TARP funds. The letter was written as a follow-up to Mr. Kashkari's testimony before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 11<sup>th</sup> in one of many hearings conducted on the oversight of the use of federal funds from the Troubled Asset Relief Program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In the letter Congresswoman Watson urged the Treasury Department to ensure that TARP funds are used exclusively to return stability and credit liquidity to the financial system in a transparent way that ensures the maximum eventual return to the taxpayers. The Congresswoman also asked for the Treasury Department's definition for waste and abuse of TARP funds, and what the consequences should be for banks' deemed to be abusing taxpayers' dollars.

The global economic crisis occurred as a result of a systemic unwillingness on behalf of institutions and individuals to routinely self-examine their financial practices to verify that they were responsible and sustainable in the long-run. Congresswoman Watson firmly believes that if the American people who are suffering deeply in an economy that continues to shed jobs and capital at an alarming rate are to accept investing in the future of the banking sector they deserve to know the specifics of how their money is being used, and when it will be returned. ■

### **Watson Announces Community-Based Gang Intervention Legislation**

Rep. Watson announced the introduction of new legislation aimed at gang violence reduction. The Tony Cardenas Community-Based Gang Intervention Bill (H.R. 3526) was presented at a press conference held at Communities in Schools in North Hills, California. The press conference was attended by leading professionals in the field of gang prevention and intervention including Los Angeles Police Department Deputy Chief Michel Moore and Save Our Future, Maximum Forces and Communities in Schools. Many of the groups in attendance collaborated with Rep. Watson and Councilman Cardenas in crafting the legislation.

H.R. 3526 introduces guidelines for effective and holistic gang intervention strategies for the city of Los Angeles and for the nation.

"Los Angeles gave the world the Crips and the Bloods," said Rep. Watson. "H.R. 3526 was created to bring forth hope, baseline strategies and the collective will for America to see the transformation of 'gang activity' into 'gain activity' for our society, our youth, and for our future."

"H.R. 3526 is quite unique in contrast to other gang legislation introduced in Congress. It calls for specific preventative and rehabilitative services to be provided in addition to evidence-based gang-reduction practices. It also provides for job career training, development and placement and, most notably, provides comprehensive mental health services to youth and families affected by gang violence or involvement."

After the press conference, Rep. Watson conducted a site visit to Save Our Future, a school for youth and families at risk for gang activities which provides an alternative educational outlet towards completing a high school diploma. She also participated in a roundtable discussion at Maximum Forces, an entity which educates and trains groups in gang violence intervention. Later that day, Rep. Watson was honored at an event at the Los Angeles County City Hall where she was presented with a council resolution for her efforts to work with groups to reduce gang violence.

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### **Have You Filed For Social Security Disability And Have Been Denied?**

Receiving disability benefits under Social Security is based on your inability to work. The Social Security Administration considers you disabled under their rules if:

- You cannot do work that you did before;
- They decide that you cannot adjust to other work because of your medical condition(s); and
- Your disability has lasted or is expected to last for at least one year or to result in death.

If you fit the above definition of a disabled person and have been denied benefits, don't stop there, follow the instructions within your denial letter to appeal that decision. It informs you of the necessary steps to take. It is important that you are not discouraged by an initial denial letter if you feel you are entitled to benefits.

Many times your first submission may not have all of the necessary information for the Social Security Administration to make a decision. It is important that you provide thorough and complete medical evidence of your disability.

The importance of this information is, don't be discouraged at receiving that first letter of denial. Just follow the instructions you have been provided to appeal the decision.

Call my office if you need assistance. ■



"I rode in a limo with you and you rode in a bus with me and that is the epitome of a true politician," said T-Rodgers, a gang intervention specialist who attended the Save Our Future luncheon. "When no one else looked at us—the gang community, Diane Watson looked at us." ■

### **Rep. Watson Visits Dorsey High School**

In May, Rep. Watson visited her alma mater, Dorsey High School where she conducted a site visit to view the Next Generation of Youth (NGY) program and STEM program which includes an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The project includes a visit from NASA astronauts and the development of mock space shuttles. This was also an opportunity for the students to apply for scholarships under the new program. ■



*The entire NGY class. Front row (L-R) Mr. Trevor Oystrick, Jesus Reyes, Jamar Faulkner, Oscar Ramos, Wendy Sarabia, Ms. Clara Herran, Aide Ramirez, Mayra Gonzalez, Geovanna Sanchez, Congresswoman Diane E. Watson, Zuleima Alvarado, Herbert Marquez, Salvador Rivas-Bustamante, Victor Ramos-Valenzuela, Luis Castro-Ramirez, Jinnea Diaz, Josue Castro. Back row (L-R) Michael Yancey, Raul Elikahi, Aaron Wagner, Diana Sanchez, Leopoldo Hernandez, Derick Calbert, Jr., Miguel Calbert, Jr., Miguel Marroquin, Mr. Drew Haugen.*

### **Don't be a Victim of Immigration Fraud**

Although we are happy to assist our constituents, many ask us to represent them when they already have a representative (i.e. an attorney). Any individual can file their own application or petition with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Or you may choose to get help or get advice from a representative. But before you decide to hire an attorney or a representative find out if they can legally represent you before USCIS.

An attorney must be in good standing with a U.S. State Bar Association (or U.S. possession territory, Commonwealth, or the District of Columbia) and may not be under any court order restricting their practice of law.

The best way to protect yourself is to ask the attorney to show you their current attorney license document. Write down the information and verify it with the Bar Association.

An accredited representative must work for an organization that has permission from the



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### **Rep. Watson Hosts Grant Writing Seminar**

Rep. Watson hosted a three-hour grant writing series in August 2009, to provide information on federal funding resources and grant opportunities available to the public. The seminar was held in the offices of the 33rd Congressional District.

The featured presentation "How to Obtain Foundation Funding Without Losing Your Mind," was given by Linda Zukowski, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations from the University of Southern California.

With approximately 8,246 foundations in California and 79,765 in the U.S. that are funding sources for the community, Zukowski helped participants target the best-fitting foundation and underlined the importance of finding the right match.

"The focus of today's workshop is to learn, identify, and apply for corporate, foundation and federal grant opportunities," said Rep. Watson.

Representatives from various organizations such as the Pan-African Film Festival, Community Family Care, The Jeffrey Foundation, West Los Angeles College, Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science, AARP, Duke Media Foundation, Hollywood CPR and Tom Bradley Magnet School attended the series on successful grant writing.

Participants received literature regarding the grant applications. "In this packet you will find critical information about searching for grant opportunities that have arisen as a result of the stimulus package. I hope that the organizations present today will share the skills acquired today with others in the community." Rep. Watson said.

The Grant Writing Information packet that was compiled for the workshop can be downloaded at [www.house.gov/watson/pdf/grants\\_workshops.pdf](http://www.house.gov/watson/pdf/grants_workshops.pdf). ■



Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to provide legal advice on immigration matters. The organization will have an order from the BIA that gives the accredited representatives permission to assist individuals with their immigration application and petitions.

*The best way to protect yourself is to ask the accredited representative to show you their Board of Immigration Order. Write down the information and verify it with the Board of Immigration.*

### Other things to be careful of:

**Do Not** sign blank applications, petitions or any other forms.  
**Do Not** sign documents that you do not understand.  
**Do Not** make any payments without getting a receipt.

**Do** obtain copies of all documents prepared or submitted for you.

**Do** verify whether an attorney or accredited person is eligible to represent you.

**Do** report any representative's unlawful activity to USCIS, State

Bar Association and/or State Offices of Attorney General.

Call my district office if you have any questions. Case Worker, Brenda Chatham will be glad to answer your questions. ■

### **Watson's Educational Initiatives in the 33rd: STEM Project**

The Obama Administration is spearheading nationwide programs to advance STEM education initiatives. As a former U.S. Ambassador and educator, Rep. Watson has already been working on filling this critical need for programs that foster local youth as leaders who are culturally aware, civically responsible, and empowered with 21st century competencies and global understanding. Pilot programs at Dorsey High and Foshay Learning Center (grades K-12) in the 33rd District facilitated by the Congressional office now show such promising results that plans to expand and replicate the models to benefit more students are already underway. Designed to simultaneously improve female and minority student competence in the core subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to inspire youth commitment to responsible tenure of the earth's human, natural and created resources ("global citizenship"), each school offers an array of programs to achieve these goals.

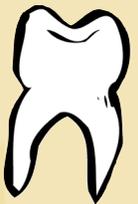
Since 2008, students signed up for Fishery's Panwapa Collaboratory have been serving as Youth STEM Ambassadors in the international "Cultivating Global Citizenship and Investigating Global Environment" program. The Panwapa curriculum was designed to foster cultural understanding and global citizenship by immersing youth in a blend of multi-cultural environments (resource materials in five languages: Arabic, English, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish) and technological environments, both virtual and real world, wherein new skills are learned and applied. In partnership with the Sesame Workshop and Merrill Lynch Foundation, Foshay enrollees and students at sister schools in South Africa are now planning to share learning through joint real-time and online classroom experience.

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### **Update on Mercury in Dental Amalgam Initiative**

Congresswoman Diane E. Watson has led the charge against the use of mercury dental amalgam. Mercury amalgam, better known as a 'silver' filling, is composed predominately of mercury, which is a known toxin. Mercury can effect the development of children and has recently been linked to neurological diseases in adults, such as Alzheimer's disease.



This issue has been important to the Congresswoman for many years. During her tenure in the California State Senate, she worked hard to great a law that required dentists in the state of California to provide their patients with a fact sheet listing the risks of mercury amalgam fillings. In 2006, the Congresswoman presented testimony to a joint panel of the Food and Drug Administration(FDA) advisers assembled to review the safety of amalgam dental fillings. Congresswoman Watson is continuing this fight in Congress.

As a result of Moms Against Mercury et al v. Von Eschenbach, the then Commissioner of FDA, et al the FDA must classify its amalgam policy by July 28, 2009. Congresswoman Diane Watson, with the support 16 other Congressional Members, wrote a letter to the FDA to urge the FDA to adopt the most stringent regulations.

Congresswoman Watson plan to continue to spearhead the movement to protect all Americans from the many dangers of mercury. ■



A Foshay "delegation" returned to the Capitol in October, some in preparation for the 2009 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition (which inspires and rewards students for STEM-related achievement), and others as "cyber-journalists" reporting on the Foshay team's participation in FIRST and the Congressional Robotics Caucus.

Pursuant to the 1999, Dorsey High has taken up the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Education Braintrust's challenge for African American youth to bridge the digital divide, sending 84 students, some as "cyber-journalists", to participate in, write about and film CBC events and forums. Partnering with schools in Connecticut and Canada, Dorsey students are undertaking a joint process for young people to explore potential STEM-related careers under the auspices of NASA's International Space Station Leaders Shaping the Future program, with the intention of establishing an ongoing, worldwide recruitment effort.

Marshall High School's students have also shown strong engagement in the importance of healthcare during the national debate on reform, writing their Congressman recently about the importance of their on-campus health center. The Congressional District Office provides speakers for school events upon request. Presentations have included a lecture at Hamilton High on the legislative process, and a Question-and-Answer session at Manual Arts High Adult Center on citizenship rights and responsibilities. Four students from the 33rd District have obtained National Student Leadership Conference scholarships. ■

**Watson Submits Appropriations Request for Fiscal Year 2010**

Each year, Congress has an opportunity to provide funding for projects that Representatives feel are important to their district or the nation's interest. On March 25, 2009, I submitted 41 project requests that will: (1) help our youth stay away from gangs and drugs; (2) develop our transportation infrastructure; (3) enhance our community colleges; (4) protect the environment; (5) enhance energy conservation efforts; (6) strengthen the U.S. relationship with the continent of Africa; (7) enhance language programs in the Cal State University system; and (8) assist law enforcement in the reduction in domestic violence.

Here is a list of approved projects passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. Total funding approved, \$23,691,474.

**City of Los Angeles – Street Lighting Retrofit – \$500,000**

As part of a larger City-wide effort to make LA greener, cleaner, and healthier, the City proposes to replace 2000 existing streetlight fixtures in the 33rd Congressional District with Light Emitting Diode (LED) fixtures. The LED fixtures will consume a minimum of 40% less energy than the existing fixtures. LED fixtures have a life span of 2 to 3 times that of the existing fixtures and require less maintenance.

**City of Los Angeles – Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration – \$717,000**

The LA River Demonstration Project will prepare elements of the Study and of the City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan as a multi-benefit, proof-of-concept project to result in repair and/or enhancement of the natural environment through actions including, but not limited to: creation of habitat to support indigenous wildlife and associated water supply, water quality, public access, open space, air quality, and recreation benefits.

**Amendment Introduced to Strengthen the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights**

On April 30, 2009 the House passed the Maloney/Watson Amendment to the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights. The amendment strengthened the ability of the bill to protect consumers from the unfair practices of the credit card industry which drive too many Americans into ever deepening debt. The amendment limits the ability of credit card companies to authorize transactions in excess of a consumer's credit limit which incur additional fees and indebtedness. Without this amendment consumers have to go out of their way to opt-in to an election program to stop their credit card company from authorizing over the limit transactions. The Maloney/Watson amendment strengthens the legislation by only allowing credit card companies to authorize over the limit transactions for consumers who specifically request the ability to do so. The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights levels the playing field between card issuers and cardholders by banning most retroactive interest rate hikes on existing balances, double-cycle billing and due-date gimmicks, and was signed into law by President Obama on May 22, 2009. ■



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**University of Southern California – Methanol Economy – \$750,000**

The Methanol Economy Initiative at USC is developing the chemistry to directly convert natural gas (methane) to methanol, which is one of the significant chemical challenges of the 21st century. USC's research can help our nation find an alternative source of energy and reduce our foreign dependence on foreign sources of energy.

**Duke Media Foundation – Film Career Exploration – \$100,000**

The Duke Media Foundation will develop a film, TV and new media program that will teach at-risk youth the craft and trade of media production, empowering them to tell the stories that both plague and illuminate their generation while learning skills that will prepare for them for a future career. During this nine-month program, 25 children (from ages 15-18) will work in teams of 5, alternating jobs, producing 5 short narrative documentary films.

**West Los Angeles College – 21st Century Career Program – \$600,000**

The 21st Century Career Program will train for jobs with career potential in the fast-growing Los Angeles industries of: (1) Television and Motion Picture Entertainment; (2) Technology in Renewable Energy and Airplane Manufacturing; (3) Health Careers in Pharmacy Technician and Dental Assistant; and (4) Teacher Preparation. Pathways will use an innovative College website to serve veterans and under-represented minorities, partnering with: (1) the nation's largest number of studios; (2) major aerospace companies; (3) the largest national pharmacy; and (4) the nation's second largest school district.

**City of Los Angeles – Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) – \$100,000**

The Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) is a law enforcement-based domestic violence crisis response team. DART will provide intervention services, such as counseling, education, referrals to shelters, emergency assistance, and court accompaniment to domestic violence victims and their family members. DART programs also provide critical services to the criminal justice system through officer training and support.

**Save Our Future, Inc – Save Our Future/Mothers on the March – \$300,000**

Save Our Future/Mothers on the March after school program will provide services which will include gang intervention and in-depth counseling services to trouble youth in South Central Los Angeles.

**YWCA Greater Los Angeles – Project Empowerment – \$100,000**

The YWCA Greater Los Angeles is establishing an intervention program to help increase self-esteem and empower at-risk girls and women ages 13 to 21 in the community of South Los Angeles. This multi-faceted program will provide intervention services to help young women of our community reach their full potential through education, mentoring and training. ■



**Congresswoman Watson and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Inquire about the H1N1 Flu Vaccine**

On September 29, 2009 Congresswoman Watson participated in a full committee hearing in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on the health, safety, and distribution of the H1N1 flu vaccine program. After the hearing Congresswoman Watson contacted the Centers for Disease Control to inquire further about questions which may be of interest to constituents of the 33rd District seeking to protection against the H1N1 flu.

**Where will the vaccine be available?**

The vaccine will be available in a combination of settings such as vaccination clinics organized by local health departments, healthcare provider offices, schools, and other private settings, such as pharmacies and workplaces.

**If my constituents are vaccinated outside of a traditional medical setting, how will that information be available for inclusion in the patient's permanent medical record?**

Recipients of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine will be provided with a hand-held card to serve as a record of vaccination and a source of information should a report to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) be needed. Vaccine recipients will be encouraged to bring the hand-held card at their next visit to their primary care provider so that vaccination information can be transcribed into the patient's permanent medical record.

**As a result of the Nation's economic conditions and a state budget crisis, California has had to make millions of dollars in cuts to our State and local health departments and programs. Is there any fear California's economic crisis will have an effect on their pandemic preparedness or their ability to effectively and efficiently distribute the H1N1 vaccine?**

We have provided now, or are in the process of providing now, nearly \$1.5 billion to State and local governments for preparation, planning and vaccine administration. We are providing the vaccine free of charge, along with needles and alcohol and disposable equipment that would be needed with it. We are providing technical assistance and guidance.

**Who do you recommend receives the 2009 H1N1 vaccine?**

CDC has recommended that pregnant women, people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, healthcare and emergency medical services personnel, persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old, and people ages of 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine when it first becomes available. As the vaccination supply and demand for these target groups is met other groups should consider vaccination.

**Should somebody get vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 if they have had a flu-like illness since the spring of 2009?**

Therefore, if you were ill but do not know if you had 2009 H1N1 infection, you should get vaccinated, if your doctor recommends it. Most people recommended for 2009 H1N1 vaccination should be vaccinated with the 2009 H1N1 vaccine regardless of whether they had a flu-like illness earlier in the year. If you have had 2009 H1N1 flu, as

**Additional  
Legislative Actions**

**Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Designation**

On November 4, 2009, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs passed H.R. 2760. The bill will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1615 North Wilcox Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the "Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building."

Johnny Grant and Hollywood are synonymous. As Tinseltown's Honorary Mayor, he was one of the community's most enthusiastic supporters for more than 50 years. He served as Chairman of the Walk of Fame Selection Committee and the Hollywood Historic Trust. He not only created what was to become part of Hollywood's history, but had been a long-time supporter for preserving Cinema City's past. To that end, Grant was appointed to a four-year term on the City of Los Angeles' Cultural Heritage Commission.

Grant was the creator and producer of the "Welcome Home Desert Storm" parade, the largest single-day event in Los Angeles' history. Television audiences around the world regularly saw him dedicating stars on Hollywood's Walk of Fame and helping immortalize the world's greatest motion picture personalities in cement in the forecourt of the fabled Grauman's Chinese Theatre.

Grant was a retired Major General in the California State Military Reserve, the all volunteer backup and support force of the California National Guard. He was sought out to advise the Guard in his areas of expertise - morale, public affairs, recruiting and special events.

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confirmed by an RT-PCR test, you should have some immunity against 2009 H1N1 flu and can choose not to get the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. However, vaccination of a person with some existing immunity to the 2009 H1N1 virus will not be harmful.

#### **Are there other ways to prevent the spread of illness?**

Take everyday actions to stay healthy.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them. ■

#### **Congresswoman Watson Adds Her Support to Key Pieces of Legislation**

Below are just some of the pieces of legislation Congresswoman Watson has lent her support to as a cosponsor and champion of human rights in the 111th Congress:

- **H.R. 1270-** Affordable Housing and Community Development Act of 2009
- **H.R. 179-** Community AIDS and Hepatitis Prevention Act
- **H.R. 11-** Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009
- **H.R. 578-** Iraqi Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Security Act of 2009
- **H.R. 1409-** Employee Free Choice Act of 2009
- **H.R. 1410-** Newborn, Child, and Mother Survival Act of 2009
- **H.R. 2479-** Community Reinvestment Modernization Act of 2009
- **H.R. 1906-** California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act
- **H.R. 2474-** Veterans Educational Equity Act
- **H.R. 3469-** Timely Due Process for People with Disabilities Act of 2009
- **H.R. 848-** Performance Rights Act
- **H.R. 1066-** Peace Corps Expansion Act of 2009
- **H.R. 1310-** Clean Water Protection Act
- **H.R. 618-** White House Conference on Children and Youth in 2010 Act
- **H.R. 676-** United States National Health Care Act or the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act
- **H.R. 1064-** Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education Act
- **H.R. 1283-** Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2009
- **H.R. 1324-** Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act of 2009. ■

#### **Honoring California's Speaker of the Assembly, Karen Bass**

On May 19, 2009, House of Representatives passed H. Res. 49. Watson initiated this resolution to honor Karen Bass for becoming the first African-American woman Speaker of the California State Assembly. Speaker Bass is also the first African-American woman to hold the position of Speaker in any state legislative body. ■

#### **Watson Resolution H.Res 153 Honors 2009 Rose Bowl Victory**

On March 5, 2009, Watson initiated H. Res. 153, resolution commending the University of Southern California (USC) Trojan football team and USC President Steven B. Sample for USC's victory in the 2009 Rose Bowl. The resolution also applauded Coach Pete Carroll for his leadership on the football field and in the community. ■

#### **Watson Introduces Amendment to Help Credit Card Holders**

On April 30, 2009, Rep. Watson worked closely with Cong. Maloney of NY to facilitate the passage of the Maloney/Watson Amendment to the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009. The amendment requires credit cardholders to opt in to receive over-the-limit protection on their credit card in order for a credit card company to charge an over-the-limit fee. The amendment also allows for transactions that go over the limit to be completed for operational reasons as long as they are of a small amount. Lastly, the credit card company is not allowed to charge a fee. ■



### **Advocating for Transparency in the Use of Taxpayers' Money**

On March 20, 2009 Congresswoman Watson sent a letter to the Interim Assistant Secretary for Financial Stability at the Treasury Department Mr. Neel Kashkari to ensure the optimum level of coordination is maintained between Congressional and Treasury Department oversight of the use of TARP funds. The letter was written as a follow-up to Mr. Kashkari's testimony before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 11th in one of many hearings conducted on the oversight of the use of federal funds from the Troubled Asset Relief Program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In the letter Congresswoman Watson urged the Treasury Department to ensure that TARP funds are used exclusively to return stability and credit liquidity to the financial system in a transparent way that ensures the maximum eventual return to the taxpayers. The Congresswoman also asked for the Treasury Department's definition for waste and abuse of TARP funds, and what the consequences should be for banks' deemed to be abusing taxpayers' dollars.

The global economic crisis occurred as a result of a systemic unwillingness on behalf of institutions and individuals to routinely self-examine their financial practices to verify that they were responsible and sustainable in the long-run. Congresswoman Watson firmly believes that if the American people who are suffering deeply in an economy that continues to shed jobs and capital at an alarming rate are to accept investing in the future of the banking sector they deserve to know the specifics of how their money is being used, and when it will be returned. ■

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